

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/044,922	GOODWIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Doug Hutton	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 05/15/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-60.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20060515</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |



Doug Hutton
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2176

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with D. Benjamin Esplin on 05/30/2006.

In the Specification:

- on Page 1, amend the first two paragraphs to:

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/347,283 (Attorney Docket No. 23452-500-301), titled "Knowledge Server," filed Jan. 14, 2002, which is hereby incorporated by reference. This application is related to U.S. Patent No. 7,000,194, filed Sep. 22, 1999, which is also hereby incorporated by reference.

This application is also related to commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,377,983, titled "Method and System for Conveying Expertise Based on Document Usage," filed Nov. 13, 1998, which is hereby incorporated by reference. This application is also related to commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,356,898, titled "Method and System for Summarizing Topics of Documents Browsed by a User," filed Nov. 13, 1998, which is hereby incorporated by reference. This application is also related to commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,513,039, titled "Profile Inferencing Through Automated Access

Control List Analysis Heuristics," filed Jun. 24, 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference.

In the Claims:

- in Claim 16, Line 1 → insert the phrase "tangibly embodied on a computer-readable medium" between the terms "*system*" and "*for*"
- in Claim 31, Line 1 → insert the phrase "tangibly embodied on a computer-readable medium" between the terms "*system*" and "*for*"
- in Claim 46, Line 2 → amend the phrase "*code embodied therein*" to — code tangibly embodied thereon —.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 1, 16, 31 and 46 are allowable. Claims 2-8, 17-23, 32-38 and 47-53, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, require all the limitations of an allowable claim. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(a), **the restriction requirement between Species 1 and 2, as set forth in the Office Action mailed on 06/09/2005, is hereby withdrawn** and Claims 2-8, 17-23, 32-

38 and 47-53 are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement, Applicant is advised that if any claims including all the limitations of an allowable claim is presented in a continuation or divisional application, such claims may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-60 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 16, 31 and 46:

The prior art fails to disclose or suggest the combination of limitations recited in the claims, as argued by Applicant in *Response* dated 05/15/2006.

The closest prior art is Vivacqua and Newbold.

Concerning Vivacqua, the disclosure is Vivacqua is thoroughly discussed in the prosecution of the present application. Vivacqua fails to disclose or suggest maintaining records for users' actions taken on documents, wherein the actions comprised an authoring action type, a response action type, a linking action type and an editing action

type. Vivacqua also fails to disclose or suggest maintaining the record of users' actions taken on the documents in metadata associated with the documents.

Newbold, which, like the present application, is assigned to IBM, discloses an affinity system that appears to be an earlier version of the affinity system of the present application. The only difference between Newbold and the present invention is the following: 1) associating values to each of the action types (i.e., authoring action type, response action type, linking action type and editing action type) performed on the documents by the users; and 2) calculating the user affinity score for a user based on: a) the number of times that a user performed each type of action, and b) the value associated with each type of action.

Accordingly, the subject matter recited in Claims 1, 16, 31 and 46 is allowed.

Claims 2-15, 17-30, 32-45 and 47-60:

These claims are dependent upon Claims 1, 16, 31 and 46, and are thus allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2176

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is 571-272-4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH
May 30, 2006



**DOUG HUTTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECH CENTER 2100**